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COUNTRY: Western Europe

DATE SUBJECT: Communist Propaganda Addressed to US
Tourists 25X1A6a

Supplement to:

PLACE ACQUIRED:
(BY SOURCE)

Responsive to:

DATE ACQUIRED:
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO): Oct 53 and earlier

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1. [REDACTED] substantial number of US tourists have been taken in by the Communist propaganda prepared for their consumption.
2. The Swiss believe that the creation and widening of a breach between the US and the Western European nations is a major objective of the Soviet cold-war strategy and that an important part of this program is an effort to convince US citizens travelling abroad that they are unwelcome and that there is a deep-seated hatred for the US on the part of the people of Western Europe. The campaign has been intensively and astutely waged by the use of posters, slanted newspaper articles, attacks by controlled deputies and studied offensiveness by porters, taxi drivers and minor functionaries who are either members of or are controlled by the Communist parties. It is not surprising that, in such circumstances, US tourists should get the idea that Europeans hate the US, that the various aid programs are totally unappreciated and that the only sensible course for the US to pursue is to withdraw from Europe and adopt a policy of complete isolationism. Naturally, that is just the end the Communists have in view.
3. Actually, the sentiments of the great mass of Western Europeans is quite different from what the Communists would like us to believe. There are, it is true, a few dissident elements which resent all foreigners including US tourists, but the general sentiment among the peoples of Western Europe toward the US is one of genuine admiration and appreciation for the colossal benefits conferred through the various aid programs. The overwhelming majority of the people realize what their fates would be if the US withdrew from Europe and they definitely and decidedly do not want that to happen.
4. [REDACTED] it would be worth while for the US Department of State to consider the possibility of alerting US travellers to Europe to the probability that the Communists will attempt to mislead them concerning the sentiments of European nationals toward the US. [REDACTED] some way could be found of informing returned travellers that they are spreading Communist propaganda when they talk of the hatred of Europeans for the US and complain of the waste of US funds in providing aid for Europe.

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